

Borough of Whitehaven



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1961

AND REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR

BOROUGH OF WHITEHAVEN
HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
1961-62.

Chairman Alderman J. Walsh.

Vice-Chairman Councillor W. J. Denvir.

Members: THE MAYOR (Councillor J. D. Davidson).
Aldermen J. Blamire and W. E. Knipe.
Councillors F. Baxter, J. Boylan, G. Hanlon
and Thompson Reed.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. N. Dobson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

A. A. Beldon, C.R.S.I.

Additional Health Inspectors:

P. Eldon, C.R.S.I.

A. Foster.

(Appointed 1-5-61)

Clerk: Miss I. Davidson.

Clerk-Typist: Miss G. Banks.

Tel:
Whitehaven 2661.

*Health Department,
53, Duke Street,
Whitehaven.*

To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Whitehaven.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

The year 1961 was not enlivened by any serious incident affecting the health of the Borough and the vital statistics were satisfactory. No special comment is called for here other than to remark that they were particularly gratifying in respect of tuberculosis.

That does not close the health account, for the basic requirements for universal good health are never completely met. True, the town has an excellent water supply and its sewage disposal is fully adequate, save for the limited area of Sandwith which could be sewered only at prohibitive cost. Furthermore, compared with big industrial towns, the air in general is little subject to pollution, a fact to which the annual low death rate from bronchitis is testimony.

But the enjoyment of clean air by the majority does not compensate those who suffer dirty air. A step in the right direction has been the elimination of smoke nuisances from one particular factory and the Public Swimming Bath as a result of the introduction of automatic stoking. But the Chief Public Health Inspector draws attention in his report to two refractory problems which remain, affecting the dock area and the vicinity of a chemical factory respectively. Both will continue to have close attention.

Domestic smoke is nevertheless the biggest single pollutant, if the least noticed, and this shows little sign of lessening. To deal with this effectively would necessitate the establishment of smoke control areas and this would mean in turn the replacement of readily available coal, cheap by national standards, with more sophisticated fuels. At present

there is no means of processing local coal for this purpose and besides the fact that smokeless fuel is disagreeably expensive when brought in from other areas, there is no guarantee of adequacy of supply. Although the elimination of domestic smoke seems, then, to be barely on the horizon the possibility should not be shelved for all time. It will be a chastening experience if ultimately one visits more built-up towns only to find they boast an atmosphere cleaner than our own.

Another basic need for good health is good housing, and in the number of houses provided in proportion to population Whitehaven stands comparison with any housing authority in the country. Further, it is not generally realised that the end of the slum clearance problem is now definitely within sight, giving the dual satisfaction of getting rid of the slums and facilitating re-development of the centre of the town. Even so, dear money and competition for skilled labour have slowed down housing development, and too many houses are occupied not only by tenants but by their married sons and daughters, trying in turn to bring up families. To have two, sometimes more, families sharing a house is not merely frustrating but inimical to mental and physical health. No health problem, for that is what it is, has received more anxious attention from the Council than this.

It is the more disappointing that a certain proportion of tenants flout the conditions of tenancy by neglecting their long-awaited houses. This is more than just an irritation for others on the same estate whose trim gardens, clean curtains and sparkling windows proclaim their pride of occupation. Generally speaking, people indifferent to personal cleanliness are to be found in unkempt houses, with windows and curtains closed to light and fresh air. Dirt and disease are ancient allies, and there would seem to be room still for elementary health education in the home.

In the sphere of housing the elderly much has been done, by providing both bungalows and two-bedroom flats in the allocation of which the elderly have received priority. There is also a small number of one-bedroom flats, giving a total

of 236 municipal dwellings in the Borough well suited to older people with, at the time of writing, a further 72 two-bedroom flats under construction in the centre of the town. But for the less fit elderly, particularly the over-seventy-fives, looking after oneself may be too difficult even in a flat or bungalow. This growing group can be helped to keep its independence by building one-bedroomed flats or bungalows, with communal lounges, laundry facilities and other features contributed by the welfare authority. With a resident warden to give a helping hand to the tenants such grouped dwellings, particularly if centrally heated, make life altogether easier and happier for the frail elderly. The Council has resolved to participate in one such scheme and this will provide homes for some whose alternative might well be to go into a welfare authority residential home.

In the sanitary field, reference to the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector shows that a great deal of time is given to the routine work of ensuring the fitness of meat, milk and other foods on sale to the public. These unspectacular duties continue to be as important as ever despite the growth of the pre-packed food industry, and I am glad to record again my appreciation of the work of all members of the Health Department staff.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. DOBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

I.—General Statistics.

Area of Borough in acres	... ..	4,315
Population (Registrar-General's estimate, mid-year, 1961)	... ..	27,290
Population, Census 1961	... ..	27,541
Persons per acre	... ..	6.3
Number of inhabited houses, 1961-62, according to rate books	... ..	7,787
Rateable Value	... ..	£274,836
Estimated Product of a Penny rate, 1962-63	... ..	£1,100

VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Number of legitimate live births	515
Number of illegitimate live births		22 (4.1%)

Total live births	<u>537</u>
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Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population		19.7
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Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 of population		18.9
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(b) Number of legitimate still births	10
Number of illegitimate still births	—

Total still births	<u>10</u>
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Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 18.3

DEATHS.

(a) **Infant Deaths** (deaths under 1 year)

Legitimate infants	12
Illegitimate infants	2

Total infant deaths	<u>14</u>
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Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		26.0
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Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.3
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Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	91
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(b)	Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	... 22.3
(c)	Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	11.2
(d)	Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births)	... 29.2
(e)	Maternal mortality (including abortion)	Nil.
(f)	Deaths at all ages	... 322
	Crude death rate per 1,000 of population	11.8
	Adjusted death rate per 1,000 of population	13.7

Statistics for the Borough are shown in relation to those of the County and England and Wales in Table 1.

TABLE 1.
Comparative Statistics

			Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
Whitehaven Borough	... ..	...	19.7	11.8	26.0
Cumberland (Administrative County)	...	...	17.6	12.3	22.6
England and Wales	... ..	...	17.4	12.0	21.4

The crude rates given in Table 1 compare satisfactorily, the rather higher infant mortality rate being within the normal range of variation for the size of the District. Subsequent tables show the corrected rates.

TABLE 2.
Birth Rates.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population :	
		Whitehaven	England & Wales
1957	... 563	20.8	16.1
1958	... 526	20.1	16.4
1959	... 555	20.3	16.5
1960	... 568	20.6	17.1
1961	... 537	18.9	17.4

The birth rate showed an unexpected fall at a time when the national rate continues to increase, and was the lowest recorded for twenty one years.

Table 3 shows death rates over past five years.

TABLE 3.
Death Rates.

Year	Number of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population :	
			Whitehaven	England & Wales
1957	...	295	13.4	11.5
1958	...	306	13.8	11.7
1959	...	323	14.0	11.6
1960	...	283	12.5	11.5
1961	...	322	13.7	12.0

The slight increase in the general death rate over the preceding year was almost entirely due to the occurrence of more deaths from heart disease. This does not indicate any increase in coronary disease but simply marks a shift in the average age at death. Sixty three per cent of all deaths took place over the age of 65, and 41% over the age of 75. Rather more old people died, and more deaths were certified as being due to heart failure.

Deaths from cancer and accidents showed little or no change, and there were no deaths from influenza or notifiable infectious disease except tuberculosis.

No death took place from maternal causes. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales in 1961 was 0.33 deaths per 1,000 total live and still births.

TABLE 4.
Infant Death Rate.

Year	Number of Infant Deaths		Death rate per 1,000 live births:	
			Whitehaven	England & Wales
1957	...	15	28	33
1958	...	23	44	23
1959	...	14	25	22
1960	...	19	33	22
1961	...	14	26	21

Infant mortality was lower in 1961 than the previous year, largely because there was only one death from broncho-pneumonia. There was the usual number of deaths from prematurity and congenital malformations. Only two infants died of the 525 who survived the dangerous first month of life, an unusually low figure, while the perinatal mortality rate at 29.2 was less than the County figure of 32.4.

TABLE 5.
Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death	Age in Weeks				Age in Months				Totals
	0—	1—	2—	3—	1—	3—	6—	9—	
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
∞ Congenital malformations	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	4
Bronchopneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Inhalation asphyxia	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
Erythroblastosis foetalis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Intraperitoneal haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total deaths	Under 1 month				Over 1 month				14
	12				2				

Cancer Mortality.

There were 46 deaths from cancer, the primary sites of the disease being shown in Table 6, while in Table 7 are given death rates for the Borough and England and Wales.

TABLE 6.
Deaths from Cancer.

Location of Disease	Male	Female	Total
Stomach	5	2	7
Colon and Rectum	5	1	6
Pancreas	—	1	1
Lung and Bronchus	7	1	8
Breast	—	3	3
Uterus	—	3	3
Bladder	2	1	3
Other sites	7	8	15
	26	20	46

Cancer mortality continues at a relatively low level, the death rate from this cause being appreciably less than that for England and Wales. Furthermore, only 17% of the Whitehaven cancer deaths resulted from lung cancer, compared with a national figure of 22.8% for 1961.

This would all sound very reassuring were it not for the increase in lung cancer over the years. The Borough had 22 lung cancer deaths in the period 1947 to 1951, 32 from 1952 to 1956, and 42 from 1957 to 1961.

In short, the death rate from lung cancer has doubled within fifteen years. Now that the ‘lung cancer scare’ has been comfortably forgotten one wonders what public reaction would be had, say, the infant mortality rate doubled in the same period.

TABLE 7.
Cancer Death Rates.

Year	Number of Deaths	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of population :	
		Whitehaven	England & Wales
1957	... 39	1.50	2.09
1958	... 40	1.53	2.12
1959	... 46	1.75	2.14
1960	... 41	1.55	2.16
1961	... 46	1.69	2.16

TABLE 8.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1961.

Registrar-General's Classification

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ...	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—
Measles ...	—	—
Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	5	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	7	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	—	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	3
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	—	—
Diabetes ...	—	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	18	23
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	22	23
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	5	6
Other Heart Disease ...	15	26
Other Circulatory Disease ...	5	10
Influenza ...	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	3
Bronchitis ...	10	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	2	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	2	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	29	40
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	4	2
Suicide ...	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War ...	1	—
All Other Accidents ...	6	3
Total (all Causes) ...	157	165

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Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Staff.

Changes in staff are shown on page 1 of this report.

(b) Laboratory Facilities.

Use is made of the bacteriological facilities at Whitehaven Hospital under the direction of Dr. R. Dallachy, and of the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Cumberland Infirmary directed by Dr. D. G. Davies. Analytical services are provided by Messrs. Ruddock and Sherratt, Public Analysts, Warrington.

(c) Local Health Authority Services.

Medical services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act are the responsibility of the Cumberland County Council. Information about the provision of Home Nursing, Home Helps, Immunisation and other services is available at the office of the Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, Area Health Office, Flatt Walks, Whitehaven.

Clinics are held as follows : —

Type of Clinic	Location : —		
	Flatt Walks	Mirehouse	Woodhouse
School Clinic	... Wed. 10-11 a.m.	Tue. 2-3 p.m.	Wed. 9-10 a.m.
Child Welfare	... Tue. 2-4 p.m.	Tue. 2-4 p.m.	Wed. 2-4 p.m.
Ante-Natal	... Fri. 2-4 p.m.	Wed 2-4 p.m.	Mon. 2-4 p.m.
Dental	... Daily 9-30 a.m.	—	—

Attendance at the consultant and other special clinics at Flatt Walks is by appointment only. Sessions are held as follows; paediatric, ophthalmic, ear, nose and throat, orthopaedic, speech therapy, hearing assessment and training, and chiropody. Orthoptic treatment is given at Whitehaven Hospital.

The Training Centre. Flatt Walks, has 65 places for subnormal children.

(d) Hospital Services.

Facilities provided by the Regional Hospital Board include Whitehaven Hospital, Flatt Walks: 120 beds. General hospital services, except for medical cases, which are now admitted to the West Cumberland Hospital.

The first stage of the new West Cumberland Hospital at Hensingham was completed and brought into use in December, 1959. It is hoped that the 60 bed orthopaedic department and the maternity hospital will be ready in 1963, and the hospital completed in 1964. The accommodation at present includes 60 geriatric, 24 medical and 16 psychiatric beds.

Homewood Annexe has 41 beds for tuberculosis and diseases of the chest.

The Hollins, Hensingham: 31 beds Pre-convalescent surgical cases with a small number of ante-natal beds.

Galemire, Cleator Moor: 24 beds for the chronic sick.

The Chest Clinic serving the area is at St. Bridget's Lane, Egremont.

Part III hospital accommodation is available in Meadow View House, Whitehaven (28 beds) by joint user agreement with Cumberland County Council.

(e) National Assistance Acts.

No legal action was taken during the year to secure proper care and attention for the elderly and chronic sick.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

A report by the Chief Public Health Inspector on the work of the year has been submitted and will be found at the end of this report.

Water Supply.

The Council's powers and duties with regard to water supply were formally handed over to the South Cumberland Water Board during the year, but it retains the responsibility for ascertaining the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies with the District. Sampling by officers of the Health Department therefore continues as before. The constitution of the Board, which includes four Members of the Council, and regular contact between officers of the two authorities ensure that the Council's interests are fully represented.

A report on the town's water giving the information required by the Minister for the year 1961 is supplied by the Chief Public Health Inspector, while the Borough Engineer and Surveyor reports on water supply and sewage disposal as follows:—

“The water supply during 1961 was of good quality as proved by the bacteriological examination of samples taken from the mains. The supply has been adequate throughout the year. An additional trunk main has been laid from Hazelholme to Summergrove and the maximum take from Ennerdale Lake of 8 million gallons a day is now available to meet increasing industrial demands. It is expected that during 1962 the demand for domestic and industrial water will have equalled the supply and only waste detection and prevention can provide a safety margin.

“No cases of contamination have been reported during the year and the method of treatment corrects any tendency of the raw water to plumbo-solvency.

“The number of dwellings supplied with water is 7,787 and the population 27,541.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

“The sewerage system although designed and installed in the 1890's is still adequate for the foreseeable growth of the community. Disposal is by untreated discharge into the sea at low water mark. No complaints have been received as the outfalls are sited at an unattractive and unfrequented part of the coast at the foot of the cliffs.”

Section D.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications, other than those of tuberculosis, are shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9.
Infectious Disease Notifications.

Disease.	No. of cases notified		Died
Scarlet Fever	3		—
Whooping Cough	4		—
Measles	76		—
Pneumonia	1		—
Puerperal pyrexia	1		—

While 1961 was not remarkable for the lowest number of notifications ever received, there have never before been so few of importance. Many factors are involved in this happy state of affairs, from improved nutrition, health, and resistance generally of children to changing virulence of some of the organisms concerned. The chief credit nevertheless must go to immunisation. This is the one factor over which parents have complete control and which needs to be maintained at a high level.

Protection is now freely available against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis. All have their own special value, and there is no better example than that of diphtheria immunisation.

It is now twenty five years since diphtheria immunisation was introduced in Whitehaven, with no deaths since that time and no cases for fifteen years past. On the basis of average death rate before immunisation there are in consequence some 43 persons in the town who would have been dead but for the foresight of their parents. This is not remote history; the lives saved include children of today.

Influenza caused some slight disturbance in the month of February, in which was recorded a minor epidemic. On this occasion schoolchildren were little affected and industrial absences were rarely as much as twice the usual 3-5% for the time of year. It all petered out in a matter of three or four weeks.

Food Poisoning.

One outbreak took place, involving approximately 140 pupils of one school. They were the sole members of their families affected and the origin was clearly the school canteen

Investigations were made amongst pupils and kitchen staff, the kitchens inspected and enquiries made into the origin, preparation and serving of the foods concerned. In accordance with the County Council's school meals practice, specimens of all food served at each meal are kept for a period against such an eventuality. These specimens were sent for analysis.

The bacteriological investigations were inconclusive but the features of the outbreak were so typical in every particular that it was concluded the organism responsible was *Cl. welchii*. This infection is associated with meat products. The distribution of the meal among affected pupils showed in fact that it was meat and not the gravy served with it which was to blame.

Cl. welchii infection, when responsible for food poisoning, is almost invariably present in the meat when delivered to the butcher. It is particularly common in imported frozen boneless veal and beef, affecting about 10% of samples taken for investigation. Home-killed meat suffers much less in this respect, less than 2% being infected.

In practice only a minute proportion of meat so infected causes food poisoning. It is impracticable to identify such meat, and avoidance of trouble is not altogether easy since personal hygiene of food handlers and good environmental

hygiene, though important, cannot alone eliminate the hazard. The germ spores will survive boiling, stewing and light roasting, particularly on the inner side of rolled joints, and grow into actively multiplying bacteria. Preventative measures depend chiefly on cooking at higher temperatures than are sometimes practicable, and serving the food immediately or keeping it at 145°F or more till it is eaten. This is no easy task when over 800 meals are to be served in a matter of an hour.

In this outbreak English meat was responsible. Its cooking and serving were performed as expeditiously as was possible and the kitchen staff were in no way negligent. Moreover the general standard of hygiene was good. The only real dissatisfaction was the personal one of being unable to make practicable recommendations which would guarantee complete immunity to any future outbreak.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications in 1961 were received as follows:—

TABLE 10.
Tuberculosis Notification

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
Male	9	1	10
Female	4	3	7
Total	13	4	17

There have never previously been so few notifications of tuberculosis of the lungs. The notable reduction in the attack rate first noted in 1958 has been not only maintained but further improved. Thus in a matter of five years the incidence of tuberculosis has fallen to about the national average from being well over twice the rate for England and Wales, a most gratifying improvement.

The full benefits of improved detection, treatment, and control of the disease are by no means shown by these dwindling figures. They do not show the reduction in time taken for cure, the increased number of patients successfully treated for much of the time out of hospital, the fact that most patients are able to resume their usual work, and that the threat of relapse is now a minor problem. What this has meant to the health and happiness of many families no-one can say. But it does mean the public health problem is greatly diminished, not least due to the smaller likelihood of childhood infection at the hands of parents and grandparents.

The 1961 incidence rates are given in Table 11.

TABLE 11.
Tuberculosis Incidence.
Notifications per 100,000 of the Population.

Year	Respiratory :		Non-Respiratory :	
	Whitehaven.	England & Wales.	Whitehaven.	England & Wales.
1956	159	71	8	9
1957	108	64	15	8
1958	65	59	4	8
1959	60	57	—	7
1960	72	47	4	6
1961	48	45	15	6

The improvement in figures for tuberculosis of the lungs it may be noticed has not been matched by a reduced rate for non-respiratory tuberculosis, rather the reverse. In fact the position here is rather better than it appears since three of the four notified cases were old surgical conditions of no current epidemiological significance.

Nevertheless it is natural to wonder why non-respiratory tuberculosis should continue to occur in view of the emphasis long laid in Cumberland on the development of tuberculin tested herds, and the designation of Whitehaven as a Specified Area from 1958 onwards. Incidents reported from

other counties show that milk from attested herds is still not entirely free from risk. In one example a slaughtered cow affected by tuberculosis was found to have come from an attested herd which had been negative to tuberculin testing only six months previously. Most of the milk from the herd had been pasteurised before sale, but some was regularly sold untreated in the local village. Ten children who received this milk had strongly positive tuberculin reactions, three of them having enlarged neck glands.

Plainly the greatest diligence in checking the reactor state of herds in the County cannot eliminate all risk, and it does not seem practical politics to plead for more frequent testing than the present system of annual clinical examination of all herds with tuberculin testing every second year. At present the proportion of reactors is only about one in five thousand, indicating a very low rate of infection. The following table shows the changing situation over the past ten years as shown by inspection of animals slaughtered in Whitchaven.

It should be pointed out that these figures include animals sent from outside the County for sale, such animals being isolated prior to sale and slaughter.

TABLE 12.

Year	Condemnations due to Tuberculosis		Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis
	Part only (all cattle)	whole carcas (Cows only)	
1952	570	16	15.5
1953	1,232	9	34.7
1954	737	31	14.6
1955	690	30	13.2
1956	616	8	10.8
1957	36	3	0.64
1958	102	6	1.59
1959	79	Nil	1.48
1960	58	3	1.03
1961	11	1	0.13

Two conclusions may be drawn. First, tuberculous infection of cattle, at least in this part of the County, is at an unprecedentedly low level. Second, complete safety can be assured only by pasteurising or sterilizing all milk. Such an ideal cannot be attained for all sources of supply, but for those who have to rely on untreated tuberculin tested milk there should be considerable reassurance in the above figures.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

From protection of milk one turns to protection of children. The B.C.G. vaccination record is shown in Table 13.

TABLE 13.
B.C.G. Vaccination.

Year	No. of children eligible for test	No. & %age of parents consenting	No. tested	No. & %age Mantoux positive	No. Mantoux negative	No. given B.C.G.
1955 ...	454	371 (82%)	362	124 (34%)	238	231
1956 ...	434	324 (75%)	315	149 (47%)	166	160
1957 ...	446	332 (75%)	325	111 (34%)	214	212
1958 ...	547	409 (75%)	382	129 (34%)	253	251
1959 ...	433	307 (71%)	296	88 (30%)	208	208
1960 ...	549	446 (81%)	428	91 (21%)	316	315
1961 ...	609	467 (77%)	437	89 (20%)	348	326

The age at which schoolchildren are tuberculin tested remains thirteen in the County area, and it will be seen that there is a further slight improvement in the 1961 figures. Although only three quarters of the children eligible for examination have parental consent for Mantoux testing, their tuberculin state may be taken as fairly representative of the whole group. And this shows that only one fifth have any sign of exposure to tuberculous infection.

Pleasing as that may be compared with the position four or five years ago, it is worth remembering that tuberculin reactor rates are very much lower in other parts of England and Wales. There are signs, fortunately, that the percentage of tuberculin positive children in the pre-school group, which is a much more sensitive index of what is happening, is falling remarkably quickly.

Mass X-Ray.

Table 14 shows that the annual harvest of new cases of tuberculosis has been small in the past five years compared with the first five years in which the mass radiography service operated. Nevertheless it does not seem as if the value of this method of case-finding is by any means exhausted. The 1961 rate of 1.6 cases per 1,000 examinations is high, accounting for about a third of the new respiratory cases.

TABLE 14.

Mass X-Ray Statistics.

Year	Number X-rayed	New active cases discovered by X-ray	Notifications during year
1952	3,513	11	23
1953	3,352	13	44
1954	3,396	10	28
1955	3,961	18	37
1956	3,974	10	41
1957	2,900	2	28
1958	1 500	1	17
1959	2,785	3	16
1960	2,743	2	19
1961	2,517	4	13
Total	30,441	74	266

The value of quoting the tuberculosis death rate is in some doubt. Deaths occurring nowadays from this cause are usually of older people with histories of chronic tuberculosis and the figures are small guide to what is happening now. Even so the record is not without interest, and one looks forward to the occasion when for the first time a nil return can be shown. For the present, the rate continues to be shown.

TABLE 15.
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Rates per million).

Year	Respiratory Tuberculosis				All forms of Tuberculosis			
	Whitehaven.		England & Wales.		Whitehaven		England & Wales.	
	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate		No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate	
1956	2	78	110	...	2	78	120	
1957	2	77	95	...	3	110	110	
1958	2	76	89	...	2	76	100	
1959	5	190	77	...	5	190	85	
1960	4	151	68	...	4	151	75	
1961	2	73	65	...	3	110	72	

**REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR**

*Public Health Department,
53, Duke Street,
WHITEHAVEN.*

To the Medical Officer of Health,
WHITEHAVEN.

Sir,

I wish to submit my eleventh annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

The report is set out in a similar manner to reports of previous years and no startling changes in the work of the department can be described. Rather the year was one of slow progress in the general trend towards better standards. The demand for better homes continues to be the main feature of interest, and the problem of providing sufficient houses shows no signs of being solved. A noticeable feature is the greater tendency of younger people to help themselves by buying older houses that lend themselves to improvements and the number of these older houses tenanted by non-owners is decreasing. The pride of possession is very evident in the new paintwork and general face lift that is so common now in every street.

Slum clearance is no longer a major problem. Very soon slums as we know them will be but a memory, and the time is approaching when every house not a slum dwelling will be improved. Some legislation to include baths, hot water, W.C.'s etc. among the things a "fit" house should have, is now overdue.

The water supply has been satisfactory throughout the district, both in quantity and quality; food hygiene has received more attention than last year and standards are good. Meat inspection was fully maintained during the year.

Section A.

HOUSING.

NEW BUILDINGS:—Eighty-three (flats 12) dwelling-houses were completed in 1961 by the Corporation and 91 (flats 18) were under construction by the end of the year.

DISPLACEMENTS:—Fifty-two families were removed from unfit dwellinghouses and rehoused in Corporation houses. While this number is not large it is an improvement on the previous year's figure and should be considered reasonable when the number of remaining slum houses is taken into account.

PROCEDURE:—While most of the displacements were from houses individually unfit, the four clearance areas mentioned in the last report viz: George St. No. 45 and No. 46; Marlborough Street No. 47; and Sandhills Lane No. 48, all of which were the subject of compulsory purchase orders, were confirmed by the Minister during the year and a start was made on removing families to new corporation houses.

In these four areas there were 168 dwellings of which 82 were occupied. Many of these houses were upwards of 200 years old and most were occupied before the last Jacobite rising.

In addition, twenty-three houses were the subject of closing orders under the Housing Act, 1957 and 8 were closed informally.

REPAIRS:—No notices to execute repairs under Section 9 were served during the year. All repairs were carried out after negotiations with the owners and no difficulties, other than delays due to pressure of work on builders, were met with.

IMPROVEMENTS:—While the interest in house improvement continued during the year and many inquiries were dealt with on this subject, the number of completed improvements under standard grants was only 13 compared with 12 last year. All these were to dwellings owner-occupied. No discretionary grants were carried out and virtually no interest in the improvement-by-grant schemes is shown by owners of rented houses.

In my report last year I made some mention of this negative approach. It cannot be that owners are any more unaware of the facilities for improvement than are other persons and I

am still of the opinion that legislation should be introduced to enforce the simple improvements envisaged by the standard grant scheme. The lack of such facilities should render any house unfit and should be written into Section 4 of the Housing Act.

REDEVELOPMENT:—Two blocks of obsolete property in the George Street Comprehensive Development Area were confirmed as Clearance/C.P.O. areas during the year and the demolition and clearing of another block was completed. The building of blocks of three storeyed flats continues and the demand for this class of accommodation is as brisk as ever.

OVERCROWDING:—Very little statutory overcrowding of dwellings exists today although numerous houses are occupied by more than one family. This position, which arises mainly from the shortage of houses for young married persons, is likely to be with us for a considerable time.

RENT ACT 1957:—So far as this district is concerned this controversial piece of legislation has aroused little interest. No cases of hardship have been observed, few rents have been increased and very few house repairs carried out by the method envisaged under this Act. No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

CARAVANS:—It is unfortunate that the necessity for the use of caravans as homes is still with us. Although the problem is not large, it is one indication of the continued housing shortage for young married people: this section of the community constitutes the major portion of caravan dwellers and there is little doubt that traditional homes would be preferred if available for, however attractive the modern caravan may appear, its limitations as a home are many and serious.

The Corporation caravan site at Woodhouse which contains forty-six plots for vans was full during the year and a waiting list of a dozen or so applicants never gets any less. Proposals for the extension and improvement of this site are being studied without enthusiasm.

The Chartered Fair caravans and followers will be obliged to seek positions other than the Quay Street area in future owing to redevelopment of the land for industrial purposes and the parcel of land on the Moresby Road, sometimes used by gypsies for short periods, has been occupied but seldom during the year.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	35
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	24
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	31
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	103
Drainage works	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	—
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	16
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	86
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	20
Food shops	...	...	...	...	...	178
Food preparers	...	...	...	...	...	73
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	292
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	16
Infectious Disease Inquiries	...	...	...	...	...	18
Infectious Disease Fumigations	...	...	...	...	...	—
Interview with owners/occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	458
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	26
Marine stores	...	...	...	...	...	8
Milk shops and dairies	...	...	...	...	...	26
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	—
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	176
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rent Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	7
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	125
Repairs revisits	...	...	...	...	...	—
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	33
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	789
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	—
Vessels in harbour	...	...	...	...	...	85
Water samples	...	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total						2,675

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	11
Chimney Stack/Flues repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	25
Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Dustbins provided	...	...	..	...	22
Eavesgutters repaired	...	...	..	...	24
External walls repaired	...	...	..	...	17
Floors repaired	...	...	..	...	27
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	.	...	...	13
Gullies repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Houses Disinfested	...	...	...	...	3
Houses Fumigated	...	...	...	...	9
Rain water pipes renewed	...	..	...	...	24
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	17
W.C. pans fixed	...	...	...	...	25
Wall and ceiling plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	29
Windows repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	13
Total					315

Section B.

FOOD.

I. Food premises in the district number 217.

II(a) Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act.

Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	76
Potted, pickled, preserved food (Meat products, fish cakes, etc.)	...	...	...	...	18
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	10

II(b) Dairies and Milk Supply.

The year was important in that the functions of this local authority in the matter of control of milk supply and licensing of dealers distributing or processing milk passed to the County Council. This centralisation of control of milk distribution cannot be anything but a retrograde step unless supervision of distribution be exercised at local level. The arrangement is now working by which reports of methods, premises and sampling are passed to the licensing authority from this department. How this can be regarded as progressive is perhaps a subject for thought but I am still of the opinion that the supervision of milk production and supply from cow to consumer should be in the hands of a single department.

Eighteen persons were licensed for the purveying of milk in the Borough. All milk is designated either T.T. or Pasteurised and no ungraded milk is now sold. No progress can be reported in eliminating that abomination of modern times—the glass milk bottle. It seems that, like the dustbin, we are going to have to live with it for many years to come.

Samples of milk taken during the year gave the following results:—

Tuberculin Tested—18 Satisfactory.
4 Unsatisfactory.

Pasteurised—10 Satisfactory.

T.T. Pasteurised—1 Satisfactory.

Sterilised—1 Satisfactory.

III. Food shops and other premises processing or handling foodstuffs were inspected when opportunity occurred but no complete survey was made during the year.

It was observed that the standard of hygiene was being maintained and a very high standard was shown by certain foodshops which had been altered and modernised. No legal action was found necessary and all demands were complied with readily. This helpful response on the part of persons in the food trade is the most encouraging feature of this subject.

IV. Educational Activity.

Once again no organised scheme was thought necessary to stress food hygiene, but every opportunity was taken to discuss the value of this subject to food handlers.

V. Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs.

By far the greatest amount of food wasted or condemned arises from the slaughtering of animals, and this is collected several times a week and transported out of the district for industrial processing. Other unsound food from shops and stores is destroyed by deep burying in the refuse tip at Overend.

VI. No large stocks of food were inspected during the year.

VII. Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations, 1947-52.

Little change can be reported. The number of manufacturers of ice cream has again fallen and only 3 persons now make ice cream in the district. The pre-packed article, manufactured in large quantities for national distribution, is widely sold and eighty premises are registered for the sale of ice cream in pre-packed blocks.

Premises have been maintained satisfactorily during the year and no difficulties encountered.

VIII. Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

No complete survey of all food premises has yet been made under these regulations although this is planned at an early date. On the numerous visits made to foodshops for other purposes the Regulations were explained to occupiers and works were carried out as required. The standard of hygiene generally is good and the small unsatisfactory foodshop is giving way to large modern shops with an excellent standard of food handling.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

By far the largest single food commodity dealt with is that of meat and the two licensed slaughterhouses in the town deal with many thousands of tons per annum. Both slaughterhouses have a high standard of practice and the owner/occupiers have been very co-operative in carrying out any works or methods to improve the standards of the trade.

Following the report on Slaughterhouses and Slaughtering facilities made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food last year these two slaughterhouses have carried out the small recommendations which were deemed necessary, e.g. the provision of stunning pens for cattle (a very doubtful benefit to either animals or men) lairage and equipment alterations, etc.

Every animal slaughtered in these establishments was inspected after slaughter and before release to the shop trade, one Public Health Inspector being fully occupied with this work. It will be noticed from the following table that slaughtering figures have again risen for this year and this increase is partly due to the temporary closure of Maryport slaughterhouse.

The small amount of food condemned as unfit is a satisfactory feature (less than .25% by weight) and speaks well for the success of the T.B. Eradication scheme and the treatment of liver diseases in the live animal.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and condemnations during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows			Calves	Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	Horses
Number killed	...	5,883	2,814	481	30,948	6,309	—	
Number inspected	...	5,883	2,814	481	30,948	6,309	—	
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cystercerci								
Whole carcasses condemned		4	12	12	17	5	—	
Carcasses of which some part was condemned			1153	1	72	38	—	
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cystercerci		13.44		2.70	0.25	0.69	—	
Tuberculosis only.								
Whole carcass condemned	—		1	—	—	—	—	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned			11	—	—	48	—	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis		0.13		—	—	0.76	—	
Cystercercosis								
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—		3	—	—	—	—	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—		—	—	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally condemned	—		—	—	—	—	—	

Total Weight of Meat Condemned, 15 Tons, 12 cwt., 57 Lbs.

Other Articles of Food Surrendered.

Tinned Meats	...	...	...	3,522 lbs.
Tinned Fruits	...	...	...	379 ..
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	252 ..
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	37 ..
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	8 ..
Tinned Rice	...	...	...	2 ..
Tinned Soups	...	...	...	2 ..
Fats	...	...	...	75 ..
Jellies	...	...	...	5 ..
Poultry	...	...	...	162 ..
Fish	...	...	...	88 ..
Bacon	...	...	...	255 ..
Sausages	...	...	...	91 ..
Syrup	...	...	...	2 ..
Total				4,880 ..

WATER SUPPLY.

(I) The whole district is supplied with water from Ennerdale Lake and the average daily flow for all purposes was 5,750,000 gallons per day. The supply has proved very satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

(II) The supply is piped to reservoirs via a modern pumping station and distributed by street lines to premises. The water is treated immediately it leaves the lake for rectification of hardness and by chlorination. Bacteriological examinations were carried out with good results.

The water is gathered from fells, is an upland surface water and is naturally soft.

(III) Plumbo-solvency. There is no evidence of plumbo-solvent properties.

(IV) The gathering grounds and lake are reasonably free from contamination by undesirable matter. There are very few dwellings in the area and the single building on the lake shore (a hotel) has a modern sewage disposal plant.

(V) The number of dwellinghouses supplied with water during the year was 7,787 and the population 27,541. All the houses were supplied direct.

Sewerage: The district is fully sewered except the village of Sandwith where the provision of a public sewer or a sewage disposal works has not yet been attempted. The entire sewage from the district is discharged untreated to the sea. Outfalls are sited at about Low Water mark (ordinary spring tides) on the beach to the south of the harbour. This beach is unattractive due to industrial wastes of various kinds, is little frequented and is heavily polluted.

Section C.

MISCELLANEOUS

I. Factories Act 1937-59.

A table is appended showing factories in the district and inspections carried out.

II. Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951.

Two premises in the district, both in the same ownership, are licensed under this Act. A modern factory processes animal hair for the upholstery trade and a store is used for the materials. No nuisance arose and the conditions are very satisfactory.

III. Pet Animals Act.

Two small shops hold annual licences for the sale of pets. The trade is extremely small and is limited to a few goldfish and birds.

IV. Offensive Trades.

Three premises are registered as offensive trade premises but only two were in operation during the year, viz.: a rag and bone dealer and a tripe and gut preparer. No nuisances arose and the businesses were conducted satisfactorily.

V. Rodent Control.

While numerous complaints of rats and mice were received during the year, there was no major infestation. Most cases were of very small infestations in new houses due to disturbance of land and these were quickly dealt with. No charge is made for this service. Business premises caused little trouble. Sewers and the town's refuse tip were regularly treated and there is evidence that the rat population is small.

VI. Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.

Little change can be reported in this field during the year and no serious nuisance occurred from smoke pollution. Some improvement in the conditions in the dock area was achieved by the installation, in the Public Swimming baths, of a new vertical boiler fitted with an automatic underfeed stoker and automatic controls. This equipment has shown considerable economy over the old Cornish hand fired boiler and smoke emission has been reduced to a minimum. There is little doubt that all methods of hand firing are wasteful and unsatisfactory. No improvement has been made in smoke emission from either steamers or dock locomotives and these two sources of pollution remain to be dealt with.

Pollution other than smoke is confined to a large chemical factory from which numerous emissions of waste gases are discharged continuously to atmosphere. Negotiations with the company were frequent and every effort made to keep emissions down to acceptable proportions. In this matter the company concerned has been very co-operative but the problems are fraught with difficulties not easily surmounted and only after much experimentation are some of the emissions rendered satisfactory.

VII. Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

This service is undertaken by the Borough Engineer's department, all refuse being tipped in a large disused quarry on the outskirts of the district.

VIII. Disinfections and Verminous Premises.

This once large problem is nowadays reduced to minute proportions thanks to improvement in housing standards, educational activity and modern insecticides. No cases of bugs were discovered but infestations of cockroaches and flies of various kinds occurred from time to time.

IX. Public Swimming Baths.

There is one establishment in town owned and managed by the local authority. The baths are in constant use and very popular. Improvements carried out during the year included an automatic boiler which among other things allows the staff to devote more time to the main purpose of the baths, as well as to general cleanliness of the structure.

Chlorinated water drawn from the town's main supply is used for filling the bath and filtration is by modern sand filters. Continuous circulation gives a change period of 4 hours. Visual testing for pH value and free chlorine is carried out several times a day and bacteriological sampling is carried out from time to time. Results have regularly satisfied the standards recommended by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR A. BELDON.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX

WATER ANALYSIS

Date	Before or after Chlorination	Number of organisms per ml.		Probable No. of Coliform organisms per 100 mls	Clostridium Welchii per 50 mls.	Remarks
13-2-61	After	15	3	0	present	Satisfactory
13-3-61	After	6	3	0	present	—do—
10-4-61	After	5	11	0	present after 2 days	—do—
10-5-61	After	1	2	0	present	—do—
21-6-61	Before	1	25	0	absent	—
3-8-61	After	0	0	0	present	Satisfactory
8-9-61	After	0	10	0	absent	—do—
3-11-61	After	2	0	0	present after 2½ days	—do—
20-12-61	Before	8	8	9	present	—

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
Flag Lane,
WARRINGTON.
20th December, 1961.

To: A. A. BELDON, Esq.
Chief Public Health Inspector,
53, Duke Street,
WHITEHAVEN.

R E P O R T upon the analysis of one sample of water,
received on 16th December, 1961.

SAMPLE MARKED:—Sample of water taken from Ennerdale
Lake before chlorination. 09.30 hours.
14.12.61.

Analysis.

Appearance	...	...	...	clear and colourless
Odour	...	...	...	nil.
Reaction pH	...	...	...	5.8
				parts per million.
Total solids	...	...	...	33
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia				Less than 0.01
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia				0.015
Nitrogen as nitrites		...	...	negligible
Nitrogen as nitrates		...	...	less than 0.5
Chloride as Cl.	...	...	...	9.5
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hrs, at 27°C.		...	...	1.3
Total hardness	...	...	...	8.0
Temporary hardness		...	...	4.0
Permanent hardness		...	...	4.0
Alkalinity	...	...	...	4.0
Free chlorine	...	...	...	Nil
Poisonous metals		...	...	Nil
Potassium as K	...	...	...	0.3
Anionic synthetic detergents		...	...	Nil

Opinion.

The chemical condition of this water is satisfactory, but
it should not be used unchlorinated in view of the high
bacterial population.

for RUDDOCK & SHERRATT.
signed : R. SINAR.

**Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the Year 1961
for the
Borough of Whitehaven
in the
County of Cumberland**

**Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937**

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspection tions (3)	Number of Occupiers	
			Written notices (4)	Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	47	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	65	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	12	12	—	—
Total	107	124	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Number of cases in which Defects were found		
			Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	In- by H.M. specter (5)	number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separates for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out Work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—	—

PART VIII. OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work (1)	No. of out- Workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c) (2)	Section 110		Section 111.		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cution (7)
Wear (Making apparel etc.)	3	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and wash- ing Household linen	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electro-plating	—	—	—	—	—	—
File making	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fur pulling	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and Steel cables and chains	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and Steel An- chors and grapnels	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cart gear	—	—	—	—	—	—
Locks, latches and keys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial flowers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	—	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII. OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work (1)	No. of out- Workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c) (2)	Section 110		Section 111.		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cution (7)
Tents	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Racquet and tennis balls	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pea picking	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feather sorting	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carding etc., of buttons, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Basket making	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chocolates and sweetmeats	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cosaques, Christ- mas stockings, etc	—	—	—	—	—	—
Textile weaving	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	—	—	—	—

GEORGE TODD & SON

PRINTERS

WHITEHAVEN